

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 /076 R

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EUR/CE:LHEICHLER

H:HNELSON(INFO)

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R 180149Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS STATE 038530

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: SENATE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TO WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED ON EDITORIAL PAGE FEBRUARY 16. BEGIN TEXT: REFUTING THE LOCKHEED PAYOFF CHARGE - THE WASHINGTON POST ON SUNDAY, FEB. 8, CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY LAURENCE STERN UNDER THE HEADLINE "NEW DATA EXPECTED TO LINK LOCKHEED TO W. GERMANS." THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT DOCUMENTS AND SECRET TESTIMONY ON ALLEGED PAYMENTS BY LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP. TO ME AND MY PARTY, THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION (CSU) ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE PUBLIC ON FEB. 17 BY THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE TEXT AND THE TENOR OF THE ARTICLE SINCE IT MISREPRESENTS THE FACTS AND THE DISCLOSURES WHICH WE EXPECT THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO MAKE.

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ALL CHARGES OF ALLEGED IMPROPER LOCKHEED PAYMENTS TO THE CSU MENTIONED IN THE PRESS SINCE ERNEST F. HAUSER, AN EX-LOCKHEED EMPLOYEE, TESTIFIED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCT. 6, 1975 HAVE BEEN A BASED ON WHAT MR. HAUSER SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD VARIOUS REPORTERS CONCERNING HIS TESTIMONY. THUS MR. MOLLENHOF'S ARTICLE IN

THE DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER OF NOV. 23, MR. LANDAUER'S ARTICLE OF DEC. 4 IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND ALL SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES IN THE GERMAN PRESS REST ON MR. HAUSER'S ALLEGATIONS AND HIS DIARY WHICH HE SAYS HE KEPT FOR A TIME WHILE IN THE EMPLOY OF LOCKHEED. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE REPORTERS, INCLUDING MR. STERN, BASE THEIR STORIES ON THESE PRIOR ARTICLES BUT DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO A RESPONSABLE JOB OF INVESTIGATING WHETHER MR. HAUSER IS TO BE BELIEVED. DURING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEB. 4 AND 6 MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WILHELM KNITTEL WAS PRESENT IN THE HEARING ROOM. THIS WAS KNOWN TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF AND THE PRESS CORPS.

ALL THE THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY MR. HAUSER THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE PRESS HAVE BEEN DENIED AND CONTROVERTED. I, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CSU, WERNER MUELLER, AS ITS TREASURER SINCE 1957, AND FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMANN, AS ITS DEPUTY TREASURER FROM 1963 TO 1967 HAVE DENIED THAT ANY PAYMENTS WERE RECEIVED BY ME PERSONALLY OR BY THE CSU FROM LOCKHEED. THESE DENIALS, IN THE FORM OF AFFIRMATIONS UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY, WERE FILED IN A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION PROCEEDING BROUGHT BY THE CSU IN DISTRICT COURT IN MUNICH. IN ADDITION, KARLHEINZ HERREINER, CHIEF OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BANK MERCK, FINCK AND CO. WHICH ACCORDING TO MR. HAUSER MAINTAINED AN ACCOUNT INTO WHICH IMPROPER LOCKHEED PAYMENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CSU HAS MADE A DETAILED STATEMENT ALSO UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, CONCERNING HIS INVESTIGATION OF ACCOUNTS MAINTAINED AT THAT BANK DURING THE YEARS IN QUESTION AND STATING THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE NOR ANY HINT OF EVIDENCE, THAT SUCH AN ACCOUNT EXISTED AT ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME. FINALLY, GUENTHER FRANK-FAHLE, MANAGING GENERAL PARTNER OF DEUTSCHE COMMERZ GMBH, LOCKHEED'S COMMERCIAL AGENT, MADE A STATEMENT UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, IN WHICH HE DENIED EACH OF MR. HAUSER'S ALLEGATIONS AS THEY PERTAIN TO DEUTSCHE COMMERZ GMBH. I HAVE REQUESTED OUR COUNSEL, GREGOR F. GREGORICH, OF THE FIRM ROGERS HOGE AND HILLS IN NEW YORK CITY TO SEND YOU COPIES OF THESE AFFIRMATIONS. THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERABLE

INFORMATION WHICH SHOWS THAT MR. HAUSER IS NOT TELLING
THE TRUTH.

WE WERE INFORMED ON FEB. 2 THAT PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED
PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. HAUSER WAS CANCELLED IN LIGHT OF
TESTIMONY GIVEN BY LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
AND IN LIGHT OF A CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE
THAT MR. HAUSER'S ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE CSU WERE

UNTRUTHFUL. I MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT MR. HAUSER'S CHARGES
HAVE BEEN A SUBJECT OF TWO SEPARATE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN
GERMANY. THE CSU'S REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTIONS
WAS GRANTED BOTH AGAINST THE MAGAZINE "DER STERN" AND
THE WEST GERMAN RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORK ON THE GROUND
THAT MR. HAUSER'S CHARGES ARE WITHOUT SUBSTANCE AND SHOULD
NOT BE GIVEN FURTHER CIRCULATION. ON JAN. 13, THE CSU
MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR RELEASE TO
IT OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE HAUSER TESTIMONY OF OCT. 6,
1975. WE REITERATED OUR REQUEST BY LETTER AND REPEATED
ON FEB. 2 AND URGENTLY DEMANDED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOW
US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS
INFORMED US THAT IT WILL NOT PERMIT US TO APPEAR BEFORE IT,
BECAUSE IT DID NOT WANT TO CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR TESTIMONY
BY FOREIGN POLITICAL OR GOVERNMENTAL PERSONALITIES OR THEIR
REPRESENTATIVES. WE WERE INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT THE
COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY ACT ON THE CSU'S REQUEST FOR ACCESS
TO THE HAUSER TRANSCRIPT IN THE WEEK OF FEB. 23.

IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE IN WHICH IMPROPER PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN
ACKNOWLEDGED BY LOCKHEED BEFORE CONGRESS AND WIDELY
PUBLICIZED THE WORLD OVER, THE CSU IS OBVIOUSLY PLACED
IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. THIS, HOWEVER, IS NOT GOING TO
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STOP US FROM STATING THE SIMPLE TRUTH, NAMELY THAT LOCKHEED
PAID NO MONEY AT ALL IN ANY FORM OR FOR ANY PURPOSE TO THE
CSU OR TO ME. FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN, GERMANY'S
CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION. END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, INVESTIGATIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE038530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBCASAGRANDE:BJR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760060-0251
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760238/aaaabhhi.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TO
TAGS: MASS, GE, LOCKHEED
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006